Policy 1992-97 and Hand Book of Procedures Vol-I.

Various schemes under EXIM Policy have been formulated to promote exports from all sectors including private sector in order to stimulate India's exports capabilities by facilitating access to required raw materials and capital goods at internationally competitive prices.

Exports Suffering due to Lack of Infrastructural Facilities

2025. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has recently informed Government that exports were suffering due to lack of infrastructural facilities and their poor upkeep, as per the report in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 28th February, 1995 captioned "poor infrastructure hits exports: FIEO";

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) At the Board of Trade Meeting held on 24th Feb., 1995 under the Chairmanship of Commerce Minister, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations submitted a set of suggestions including the need for strengthening physical infrastructure. The areas in which improvement has been sought are power, transportation & communication.

(c) Government has initiated several steps for infrastructure development in the country as also for better upkeep of existing infrastructure facilities. Private sector participation is being encouraged in infrastructure development activities. This Ministry regularly hold meetings of Standing Committee on Promotion of Exports by Air & Shipping (SCOPE-AIR and SCOPE-SHIPPING) to address issues concerning export infrastructure. A Centrally Sponsored Export Promotion Industrial Parks Scheme has also been formulated to assist states in creating efficient infrastructure for Export-Production.

Quotas Imposed by World Trade Organisation

2026. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued notification conceding World Trade Organisation's right to impose quotas on garments and textile clothings of the country;

(b) if so, whether the system itself from abroad has caused damages to Indian exporters; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Recommendations by Extreme Focus Groups

2027. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recommendations made by the 34 extreme focus groups for suggesting measures to boost exports had not been accepted by Government; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have now decided to review these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir, the Action plan included the major recommendations made by the Groups on 'Extreme Focus Products' identified by the Board of Trade, Ministry of Commerce.

(b) Currently there is no fresh proposal to review these recommendations.

Indo-French Joint Business Council Meeting

2028. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-French Joint Business Council meeting was held at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details and outcome of the meeting;

(c) whether France has expressed willingness to extend trade and other related ventures with India; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The XIth meeting of Indo-French Joint Business Council was held in New Delhi on 6.2.95.

(b) to (d) Both Indian and French sides felt an urgent need for strengthening industrial relations between the two countries and noted that there was abundant scope for improvement both in the levels of French Investment in India and Indo-French collaborations. A number of thrust areas were identified in which Indo-French companies could collaborate to their mutual advantage. The two sides also proposed to set up permanent Secretariats in New Delhi and Paris under the auspices of the Indo-French Joint Business Council. The Government supports these initiatives in the context of its general policy of improving economic cooperation with all countries.

Production and Export Targets for Tea for Eighth Plan

2029. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the production and export target set for tea during Eighth Plan (year-wise) and the actual achievements made so far;

(b) whether there is vast scope to develop tea industry in the production and export sector;

(c) whether World Bank is keen to finance the tea industry in the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Data regarding achievements in production and exports of tea vis-a-vis the targets for 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as follows:

Year	Targets (Million kg)		Achievements (Million kg)	
	Production	Exports	Production	Exports
1992-93	765	210	721.09	180.69
1993-94	730	210	753.53	161.17
1994-95	770	210	699.71* (April 94 to January 95)	130.09*
1995-96	780	210		

*Estimated

The Tea Board has made production and export projections of 874 M. kgs. and 243 M. kgs. respectively for the terminal year of the current five year plan.